

MARVEL

1

TABOO
B. EARL
FERREYRA

DEADLY NEIGHBORHOOD **SPIDER-MAN**





When you're the guy who's always got a grin on his chin and a quip on his lips, people don't like it when you're not smiling.

Makes them feel uncomfortable.

Probably because when their day sucks, they always feel they can rely on you to cheer them up.

Or at least give them some hope it's gonna get better.

But usually, it doesn't get better.



I've had some messed-up dreams in my day. Lucid ones where everything feels real. Even went up against a guy named the Sleep-Stealer in his nightmare world.

DEADLY NEIGHBORHOOD
SPIDER-MAN

PAROO AND B. BARLINTINE
JULIAN CERNIAK
VICTOR FLORES
MILAN KALININ
RICHARD L. KATZ
PETER KATZ
ROBERTO KATZ
SARAH KATZ
TOM KATZ
VICTOR KATZ
WILLIAM KATZ
YVES KATZ
ZACHARY KATZ
ADAM KATZ
ALAN KATZ
ANDREW KATZ
BENJAMIN KATZ
BRUCE KATZ
CHARLES KATZ
DAVID KATZ
EDWARD KATZ
FRANK KATZ
GEORGE KATZ
HENRY KATZ
ISAAC KATZ
JACOB KATZ
JAMES KATZ
JOHN KATZ
JOSHUA KATZ
JUSTIN KATZ
KEVIN KATZ
KYLE KATZ
LARRY KATZ
LEWIS KATZ
MICHAEL KATZ
NATHAN KATZ
NICHOLAS KATZ
NOAH KATZ
OLIVIER KATZ
OSCAR KATZ
PETER KATZ
RICHARD KATZ
ROBERT KATZ
ROSEMARY KATZ
SAMUEL KATZ
SEAN KATZ
SERGIO KATZ
SHANE KATZ
SHARON KATZ
SIMON KATZ
STEPHEN KATZ
TERRY KATZ
TIMOTHY KATZ
TOMAS KATZ
TONY KATZ
TRAVIS KATZ
TUDOR KATZ
VICTOR KATZ
VINCENT KATZ
WALTER KATZ
WILLIAM KATZ
WYATT KATZ
XAVIER KATZ
YVES KATZ
ZACHARY KATZ
ZOE KATZ

But this dream doesn't feel like that one. I mean, there's something vaguely familiar in the visuals. A similar palette? A total pastiche?

I can't shake the feeling I've been here before. The only thing I do know is that I'm really, really angry and can't stop smashing stuff.

I wonder if this is how the Hulk feels?

I've had some messed-up dreams in my day. Lucid ones where everything feels real. Even went up against a guy named the Sleep-Stealer in his nightmare world.

DEADLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN

FABO AND B. BARBERS
JUAN CERRATO HAIR CUTTER
VIC'S TONIC LUBRICANT & OILS
MURRAY ALAN CO. REAL ESTATE
PACIFIC MOTOR OIL
REPAIRS, TUNE-UPS, BRAKE SERVICE,
CARBURETOR CLEANINGS

DR. DONALD R. MORGAN, D.D.S.
ORAL SURGEON
DENTISTRY
CROWN, BRIDGE, VENEERS
COSMETIC DENTISTRY
608 W. MARKET ST., SUITE 200
ST. LOUIS, MO 63101

FEARS

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[illegible]

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SPIDER-MAN

FABOO AND B. BARLINTINE
JULIAN GENTILEMAN
VICTOR KROKHIN
MILANO LALLO
PETER PAVLOVIC
RICHARD ROBINSON
SARAH CONNORS
TOMMY COOPER
DANIEL DUBOIS
CHRISTOPHER HARRISON
DAVID JONES
JOHN MURPHY
KYLE NICKERSON
CHUCK RAYMOND
GARY SAMPSON
STEVE SHAPIRO
STACEY STEVENSON
TIMOTHY TOLSON
WILLIAM WATTS
ZACHARY ZEPHYRUS

DEADLY NEIGHBORHOOD

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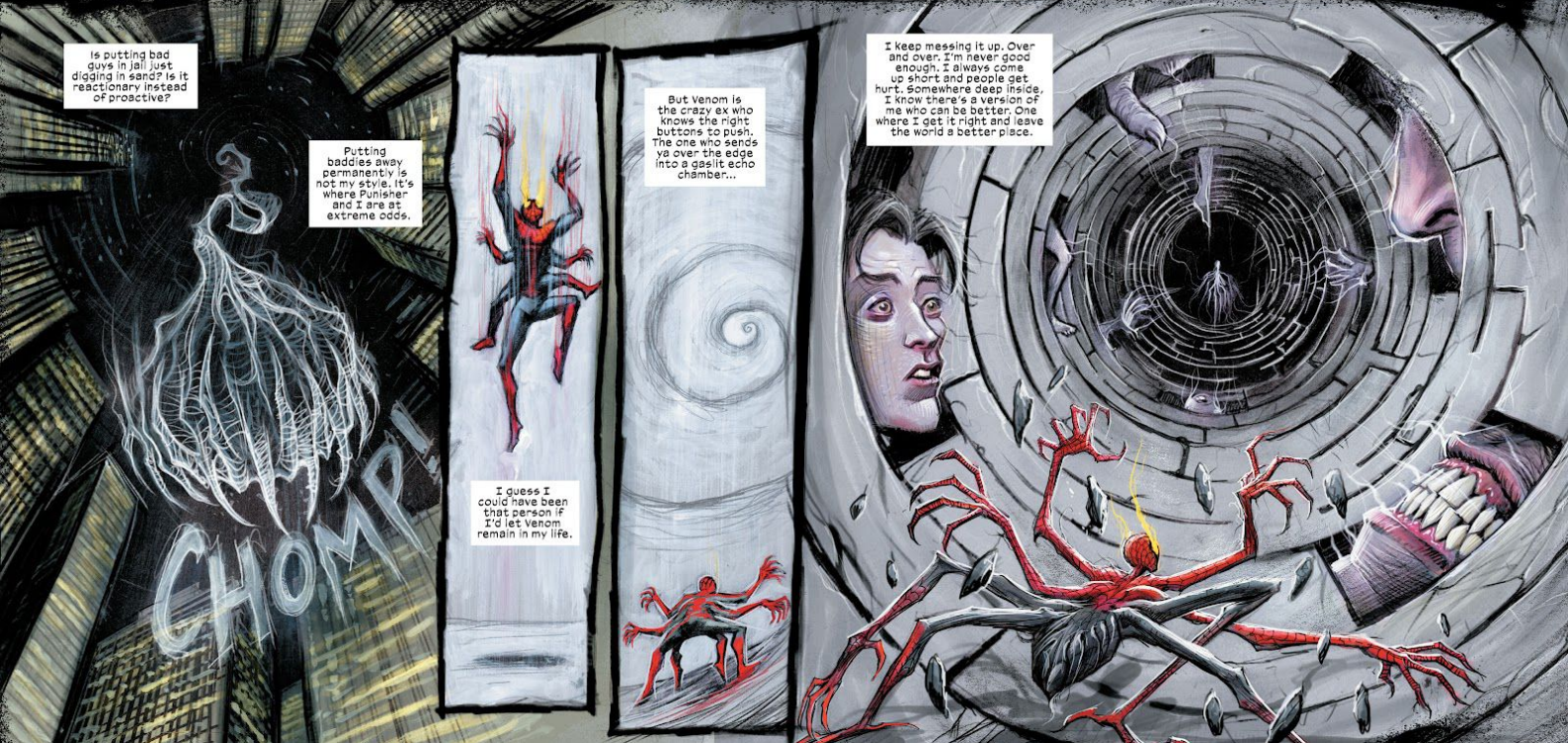


To be honest, I've been feeling a bit trapped lately...

...like everything is out to get me.

Even myself.

I've been fighting the feeling that I'm not doing enough.



Is putting bad guys in jail just digging in sand? Is it reactionary instead of proactive?

Putting baddies away permanently is not my style. It's where Punisher and I are at, extreme odds.

But Venom is the crazy ex who knows the right buttons to push. The one who sends us over the edge into a gaslit echo chamber...

I keep messing it up. Over and over. I'm never good enough. I always come up short and people get hurt. Somewhere deep inside, I know there's a version of me who can be better. One where I get it right and leave the world a better place.

I guess I could have been that person if I'd let Venom remain in my life.



Which is
why I'm
here.

Let me
catch
you up.



I'm in Pasadena
working on a very
experimental
idea.

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA: E.S.U.
TECH SONIC RESEARCH LABORATORY.

If it works, this project
could isolate and
destroy sick cells using
frequency and water
with superconductors
connected through
Josephson junctions.

I had a hunch Josephson
junctions could be used
for something other than
detecting submarines.
I won't bore you with the
details, but I could go
down rabbit holes for days
talking about this stuff.
Luckily, I found someone
else who wanted to go
down the same rabbit
holes with me!

She had already been
working on a theory
using frequency and
water, which she believed
would revolutionize
the medical world.

Her name
is Crystal
Catawnee. We
met through a
mutual friend
in academia.

Crystal
had the vision
with the tech...
and I had the
research
with the
experience.



Another all-nighter,
Pete? Lucky I had the
instinct to order an extra
oat milk latte.

You've got
me hooked on
these, Crystal.
Never thought I
would give up my cream
and sugar with a hint
of Folgers to kick
off the a.m....but
you've proven
me wrong.





So? Progress?
Is the frequency
holding?

It's still slightly
oscillating...

You all
right there,
Sparky?

Just
need my coffee
pick-me-up.



We
are so
close.



I was
tinkering
before I passed
out and drooled
all over your
notebook.



Is that
what I think
it is?



I hope
so.



That's
when I see
the rock.



There's
something
familiar
about it.

I pick it up and toss
it in my bag. I got a
date with a new old
friend and a chessboard
I don't want to
leave hanging.



Driving in L.A.
Not something
I'd wish on my
worst enemy.
Well, maybe my
worst enemy.

Duncan! It's
uncanny how you're
already here. Unless
you've been waiting
all night?



I take pride
in my job. Better
to be early
than late.

I
appreciate
that.

I settle in
for the long
commute.



There's
no time like
traffic time
to check
out this
strange
rock.

The
markings
look old.
Really
old.



I try to make out the tiny
carvings, but the stop-start
motion makes me nauseous.
I better wait until later when
I can sit on a static couch.

Where to,
Mr. Parker?

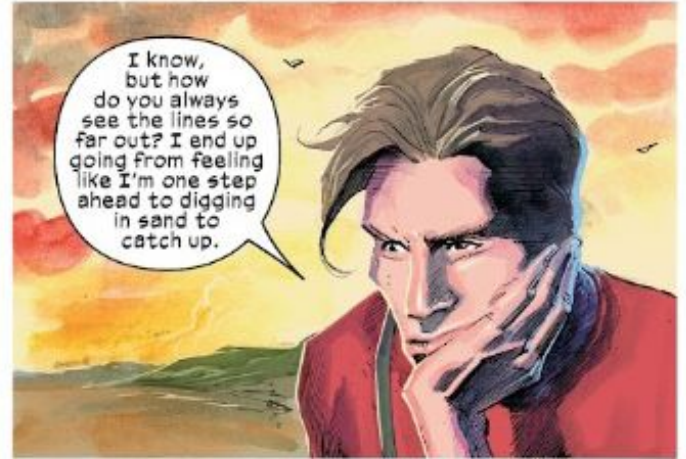
Mr. Parker
would like a
ride to the
Santa Monica
Pier.



**SANTA MONICA PIER.
FORTY MINUTES LATER.**

If you
need anything,
don't hesitate
to call.

Appreciate it,
Duncan. Stay safe
out there. Those
freeways are
no joke!





...and I'm back
in this demented
dream filled
with spirals.

This time, I see
everything as if
I'm still at the pier
playing chess...



...except
there's an
overlay of my
nightmare
happening in
real time.

What I
witness is
horrifying.

And
somehow, I
know it's
my fault.

Suddenly, I'm
out of my body,
looking back
at myself...

I just
don't know
how I got
here.

Or
why.

That's
always
the rub.
The why.



...and let the patterns become a part of you. Nature's patterns are everywhere--just stay attuned to them.



I want to tell Bird about these dreams... but something holds me back.

Look for the patterns, Pete. Even where you least expect to find them. There's always order to chaos...and chaos in order.

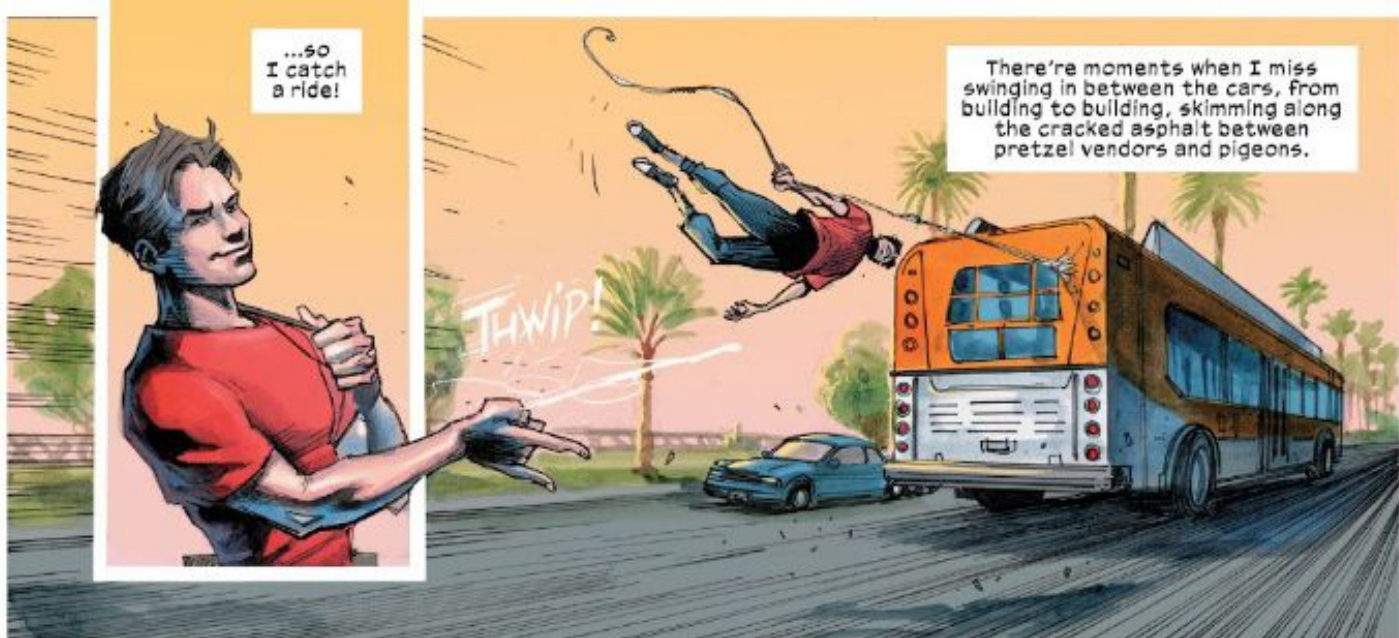
Noted. I appreciate the games, Bird. And our conversations even more.



You know where to find me, Pete. I always look forward to sharing time with you.



The smell of coconut lotion, sweaty tourists, and corn dogs fades as I head north toward Malibu. If I walked, it would take hours...



They're right about that.
It *is* huge. I didn't think
black bears were out here. I
remember reading they left
the Santa Monica Mountains
after the late 1800s.

Heeeeeelp!!!
It's huge!!!
Please don't
let it eat
us!!!

I guess this one never
got the memo.

Don't worry,
kids, Smokey's only
trying to prevent forest
fires! He'd never think of
making a snack outta your
Supreme sneakers
and Patagonia
jackets.

Time to do some
hero work and save
the kids from being
Big Bear's Breakfast!

Come on,
Yogi, these kids
aren't from around here.
They're glampers who
wandered a bit too far
into the great
outdoors.

THWIP!!



This bear is *no* joke. It puts up one heck of a fight.



And after those bad dreams, my brain feels like it went through a blender...making my reaction time a beat less than a waltz.



I'm definitely not up for this dance after all my late nights in the lab.



Nice right hook!



But your big mitts ain't got nothing on this spider's webs!



THWIP! THWIP! THWIP!
THWIP! THWIP! THWIP!
THWIP! THWIP! THWIP!
THWIP! THWIP! THWIP!



Your breath though...woooof... worse than a soggy beef pizzle stick.



Hello...SPCA? Hello? Yes, I've got... Hello? A bear...no, no, not a... Hello? Seriously? Why can't I ever get service out here?



Great. Yes, it's been subdued. The kids are safe. All is well...thanks to your friendly neighbor--I mean, Jimmy, yep, this is Jimmy Gomez. Calling from the Santa Monica Mountains!



Home sweet home...

...though is it weird I miss the midnight car honks and trash truck beeping?



I still can't believe Randy and Janice were so kind to open their Malibu home to me. It's almost overwhelming for this city kid.



I could get used to this.



All right there, little guy. There's something weird about you... And the one person who might know what you are is not here. Soooo it's up to me and my amazing powers of scientific deduction to figure you out.



The markings look like they're telling a story.

A really, really tiny story.



I can't help shake the sensation it's a story I know.

Annnnd we're back. Now I'm certain this rock thingy has been giving me these waking nightmares.



Because these aren't my hands... and we aren't in Malibu anymore!

Holy smokes! Actually, I look pretty good for an old man.

Hey you!



I know I'm in my own stitched-together subconscious scenario...

Yeah, you. Hand it over, pal.



...but it feels more real than a two-day-old tuna fish sammy stomachache.

Otherwise, I got a slug with your name on it.





You
don't have
to do
this.

But I do.
Change is
inevitable.

Becoming is
an active process
from being.

You'll
soon face a
new becoming
out of an old
being.

And that
being will
bring a new
beginning.

That's a
real tongue
twi--

SULLAAAAAAMMM







Now this is more like it!

It's been staring me in the face the whole time. Over and over the spirals. It's not the spiral itself but the Fibonacci sequence connected to the spiral.

Crystal! I'm heading your way.

Here's a clue-- number series with sums pre--yes, exactly. Nailed it. Can you... Crystal? Crystal?!

Aiiieeaaayaaa!

Crystal!!!

This is restricted airspace. Please return to the street and await an officer.

Seriously?! My first run-in with LAPD and it's a chopper. These guys are notorious for tracking those high-speed chases on TV and never losing their prey...but I'm up for the challenge!

Now, which way to Pasadena?

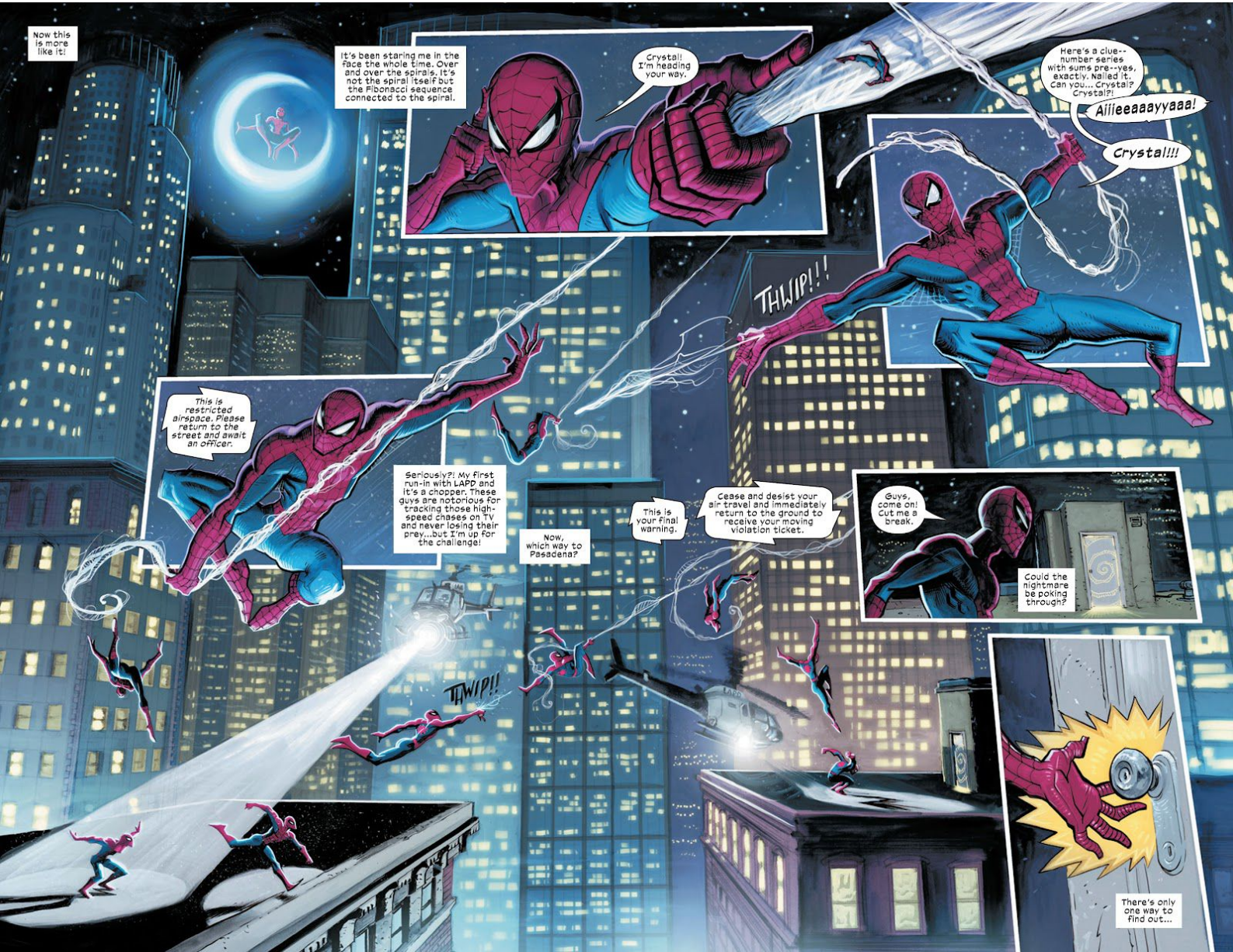
This is your final warning.

Cease and desist your air travel and immediately return to the ground to receive your moving violation ticket.

Guys, come on! Cut me a break.

Could the nightmare be poking through?

There's only one way to find out...



I feel like my body was completely rearranged and put back together again.

Good news--I don't hear the sound of a chopper overhead.

Bad news--the vertigo I'm experiencing right now has me holding onto my supermarket sushi dinner for dear life.

ROSE BOWL,
PASADENA.

This field is off-limits!

Vacate the premises or face arrest!

If these guys weren't already pushing the low-rent end of the ugly spectrum, they were about to take it to the next level.

Guys, I appreciate you doing your job, but if you give me a minute, I'll be out of here.



GRAAALLLAAPPGGHH!!!

@rallappgh?
That's a new
one.



Guys...guy.
Thing. Whatever
you are, I got no beef
with you...I also don't
have any seitan or
tofu either.

Bad
joke, sorry.
L.A.'s got me
on this vegan
kick.



You're
obviously some
manifestation of my
imagination, and I
don't want to
hurt you!

But you
want to hurt me.
Fine, whatever. I
don't have time
for this.

Catch you on
the flip side, cyclops
security guy!

As I swing
away, things
begin to get
really strange...
and I realize
I'm scared for
the first time.

KRAK!!



A frog
and a snail?
There's no way this
is my nightmare.
I'm way more
creative.

But it's not a dream. I smell the
frog monster's hot breath through
my suit and feel its wet, slimy
skin as it hurtles toward me.



SPLOOOSH



Disgusting!



I half expect
Gozer the Gozerian
to call down from
above, asking me to
choose the form
of the Destructor...
while Rick Moranis
looks for Zuul to
give her the key.





As I look up at this
supernatural demon bear,
I wonder--is progress
always the best motivator
when we're charting
unknown waters?

Because
progress always
leaves blood on
the trail...

...a trail where
we can never
know the real
cost of our
actions...

...until
it's too
late!



TO BE CONTINUED!